Socialist Workers Party

Good riddance to the Tories!

THE MAY 1 general election looks set to be the end of Tory rule, and good riddance to them.

Thatcher and Major have spent 18 years taking from the poor and giving handouts to the rich.

They threw away any chance of peace in Northern Ireland in order to cling to power for a few more months.

Even in their dying days they have announced the closure of the Royal Maternity Hospital and the City Accident & Emergency department in Belfast and the privatisation of the Social Security Agency.

This election should be a good time to reject everything the Tories stood for. But in Northern Ireland the general election is set to increase sectarian divisions. None of the major parties is offering any solution to the hospital closures, unemployment, low wages and education cuts suffered by Protestant and Catholic working class people.

Far from it. Politicians like Ian Paisley are stirring up sectarian feeling with their marches for loyalist 'rights'. Their message of hate gives encouragement to arson attacks on churches and to the disgusting bigotry on display every week at Harryville.

These politicians can go back to their leafy suburbs while ordinary people will pay the price of any sectarian violence over the summer.

At the same time the SDLP and Sinn Fein are calling for all Catholics to stick together. Sinn Fein rightly admits that the armed struggle cannot win. But the only alternative they offer is for the same politicians who have messed things up for the last 25 years to get around the table.

The problems that working class people face are overwhelmingly shared problems. The solution has to start with working class people coming together and rejecting the politicians' attempts to divide us.

The real cost of sectarianism

Wages in the North are on average 20% lower than in Britain. 131,000 workers here earn less than £4 an hour.
Under the Tories the earnings of the top 10% in the North have increased by around 60% while manual workers' wages have only increased by 3% over the same time.

Socialist Worker Rally

The Socialist Alternative

Speakers: Jim Larmour, Colm Bryce and a striking Liverpool docker

Thursday May 1st , 8.00pm
Holiday Inn Garden Court, Brunswick Street.

Will Blair make a difference?

MANY PEOPLE are looking to Tony Blair's New Labour Party to make a difference, either by restarting the peace process or by reversing Tory hospital closures and attacks on the unemployed.

But all the signs are that Blair is determined to keep things as they are.

He backed the Tories at every step of their disastrous policy on Northern Ireland.

He refuses to confront the discrimination in the Northern Ireland state or withdraw British troops, whose main role has been to harass Catholic communities. He has point blank refused to change the Tory anti-union laws and says he will keep Tory spending limits on health and education.

Blair promises a minimum wage but will leave the figure to be decided by a commission which will include business people.

Blair is committed to the free market, which means that profits come before everything else. The Tories have built up a massive budget deficit. It could be tackled by taxing the rich, but instead Blair will try to make working class people pay the price.

Workers will have to organise and fight to get anything out of a Blair government. And we will need a strong socialist party to help organise those struggles and to counter the free market ideas of New Labour.

Socialist Workers Party

The SWP believes that workers' unity is the key to the way forward in the North.

The overwhelming majority of people in Northern Ireland want to live in peace with their neighbours. Yet politicians continually ask us to choose between loyalty to different flags or countries.

Unionists ask people to be loyal to a rotten British state, headed by a royal family that is a joke and run by millionaires. Nationalists look to the corrupt politicians of the South and a country that is riddled with the bigotry of the Catholic church.

What we are never asked is what sort of Ireland we want to live in. Workers North and South have an interest in getting rid of these two corrupt states.

The SWP doesn't just talk about workers' unity. We have a proud record of supporting Catholic and Protestant workers in struggle. We collected hundreds of pounds for striking hospital workers and groups like the Liverpool dockers.

We have participated in campaigns against the Jobseekers Allowance and low wages. We helped organise the United Against Bigotry demonstration at Harryville, including delegations of trade unionists from Britain.

We believe that real change only comes when workers themselves organise and fight back.

Like the truck drivers in France who won the right to retire at 55 because they went on a serious and determined strike. Like the Renault workers in Belgium who occupied their plant to save their jobs and won solidarity action from the trade union movement.

Right across Europe the workers movement is reviving its old militancy and tradition of struggle.

Unlike the other parties the Socialist Workers Party does not receive donations from big business. We are presently trying to raise £10,000 from our supporters to get better printing equipment and fund our activities. If you want to make a contribution to our Fighting Fund, send your donation to: SW Appeal, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8.

Fight

We believe that Irish workers should start to follow these examples and fight for their rights.

The Socialist Workers Party wants to see a society that is not organised around greed. We think it is wrong that £50 billion is handed out in dividends for the rich to squander while people work for as little as £1.80 an hour.

We think it wrong that millions are spent on Trident missiles while people in the Third World are starving.

We think it is wrong that workers are forced to work harder and longer often for less money while tens of thousands are on the dole.

The Socialist Workers Party is campaigning for:

- **A National Minimum Wage of £5 an hour.**
- **Scrapping the JSA**
- **Workers Unity to oppose a sectarian state.**
- **An end to the 11 plus system in education**

What is socialism?

■ ***It means taking control of industry out of the hands of the millionaires.***

Why should most of our newspapers be owned by media barons like Rupert Murdoch?

■ ***It means workers' control of our factories and offices.***

People who spend their lives working know more about how to run their workplaces efficiently, than the managers who only aim to squeeze out more profits.

■ ***It means producing for human need and not for greed.***

Why should the government give out huge grants to multinationals when they do not put money into proper creche facilities for working mothers?

■ ***It means more democracy.***

Today we elect people every four years who can break their promises.

Under a socialist system we would have the right to recall them when they did not carry out their mandate.

■ ***Socialism has nothing to do with the crimes of Russia.***

What existed there was a state capitalist tyranny which exploited workers and denied democracy.

The SWP has always opposed these regimes.

TIME FOR A REAL ALTERNATIVE

IRELAND has undergone many changes in the last few years—and there are many more to come.

People no longer look up to their priests, politicians or even union leaders as their betters.

There is now a highly educated working class that is starting to demand its rights.

The Socialist Workers Party is building a serious alternative to the political establishment in Ireland. Across the country more and more people are getting our paper Socialist Worker and are joining our party.

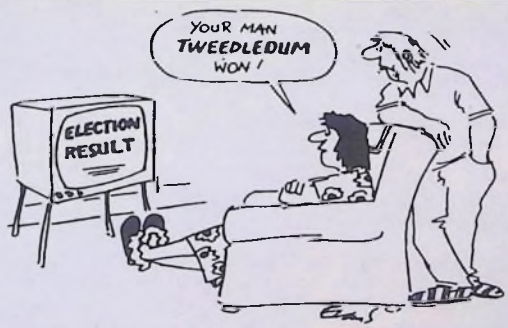
We want to see a big and powerful party that opposes the bigotry of loyalism and the bankruptcy of republicanism.

We want to see revolutionary change throughout the whole of Ireland North and South. If you like what you have read in this leaflet, then why not get actively involved.

Joining the SWP means taking three papers to distribute every fortnight, coming to meetings when you can and participating in the discussions inside the organisation.

❑ *I am interested in joining the Socialist Workers Party.*

■Send to SWP, PO Box 354 Tomb Street, Belfast



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